

And lastly, do not forget the underlying principle of every successful garden, that is the principle of true proportion, without which every form of garden decoration, whether it be a simple arch or a stately pergola, a summer-house of quaint design or trellis covered with trailing vines; whether it be a water garden, a rockery, or a simple group of shrubs to fill an uninteresting corner, is lacking in perfect charm.

Give due regard, then, to proportion. Do not plant a tall and stately yucca on the uppermost reaches of your rockery; nor yet leave an iris clump alone at the foot of a formal rockery. Do not dwarf your small ten-by-twelve back lawn, by a large round flower bed, nor yet have a clump of peonies in a narrow three-foot border.

SOME GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF PLANNING A GARDEN

But when we speak of gardens all so glibly we do not necessarily mean those pleasure grounds of the rich, with their row on row of beautifully-ordered beds; their rose gardens and their pergolas; their rock gardens, and their lily pools; their summer-houses wreathed in smiling vines, and their arches gayly wound with flaunting roses; their shrubberies and their trim hedges; their flaming beds of blazing perennials, where the stately digitalls looks down in haughty scorn upon the saucy upturned faces of the fragrant pinks, perky amidst a forest of gray-green mist; and the proud larkspur with its waving spears of amazing blue (what monarch was ever so royal) strives to reach those heights unknown to all save the peerless hollyhock.

No. Every man may have his garden, though it be but a small backyard, gay with golden coreopsis and purple pansy; a tiny spot of marigolds and sweet alyssum; or a dainty border bravely supporting the creepy, crawly portulacca and the incomparable myosotis.

Here in the small spot the simple possessor may reap far more happiness from his carefully-tended plants than is obtained by the wealthy man, who leaves all the work, and, therefore, all the true joy, to his paid gardener.

Do not forget that man measures happiness by what he himself experiences, and not by what someone else experiences. And so it is quite possible for him who possesses but a tiny pot, but who knows every tiny bud and branch and leaf of them, to reap even more true joy than the man who, possessing lordly acres, knows not one of all his rare possessions.

ASKING QUESTIONS

Nothing is more disappointing to a gardener than to find that a newly-tried plant is not up to his expectations.

There may be one or two reasons for this failure. Either the gardener himself has not given the proper amount of care in the cultivation of this new plant, either as regards soil, situation, exposure or attention, or he has expected too much from his new plant.

In the middle of the summer is a good time to look around at the various beds and borders of neighbors' gardens, or those larger and more formal ones, situated in the public gardens of parks, squares, and any other grounds that may be thrown open for the benefit of the public. One may always get fresh ideas from these places. Or one may recognize some of the very plants that are growing at home, and compare them with others. One may see just how tidy certain borders and beds may be kept, with little or no trouble, all depending upon the kind of border plant put in.

In the large public gardens, where large staffs of men are kept for attending the beds and lawns, one may often reap a very appreciable amount of information by asking a question or two. Always ready to give